

Top Secret



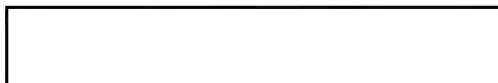
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Trinidad-Tobago: Prime Minister Eric Williams' political strength is dwindling and opposition elements are attempting to take advantage of his difficulties.

Williams has done little to alleviate basic socioeconomic problems since the political crisis last spring engendered by racial demonstrations. Although on 30 June he proposed an ambitious plan for national reconstruction, local support has not been forthcoming on the scale he envisioned.

The prime minister has concentrated political authority in his own hands, refusing to consult with his cabinet or party officials. On 8 August the former foreign minister, who resigned in April, stated publicly that Williams' party had virtually ceased to function.

Last month two opposition groups announced an informal coalition in preparation for future elections. Williams is constitutionally obligated to call elections before the end of next year, but he probably will hold off as long as possible, hoping that his position will improve.

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South Africa - Mozambique: South African helicopters and pilots reportedly participated in a recent Portuguese counterinsurgency offensive in north-eastern Mozambique. This is apparently the first time that South Africans have taken an active part in military operations against insurgents in Mozambique, although Pretoria has provided the Portuguese with air support in eastern Angola since at least early 1969. There is no indication of the size of the South African effort in Mozambique, nor is it known how important it was to the success of the recent Portuguese campaign in the northeast.

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